

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A solid, water-free and alkanol-free composite material comprising organic and/or inorganic water-insoluble particles or pigments in a mixture with at least one compound of the general formula (I)



where

R is H, C₁₋₆ alkyl or benzyl

A is ethyleneoxy

B is C₃₋₁₀ alkyleneoxy or mixtures thereof,

it being possible for groups A and B to be randomly distributed, alternating or in the form of two or more blocks in any order,

n is an integer in the range from 4 to 8

x is a number in the range from 1 to 25

y is a number in the range from 0 to 10

and x + y is at least 1,

wherein the alkoxylation and any subsequent purification of the alkoxylation product are conducted in such a way that the alkoxylates are alkanol-free.

Claim 2 (Original): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the particles are present in an amount in the range from 85 to 99.9% by weight and the compounds of the general formula (I) in an amount in the range from 0.1 to 15% by weight, based on the total amount of the composite material.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the general formula (I) is an alkyl glycol alkoxylate or alkyl diglycol alkoxylate obtainable by alkoxylating C₄₋₈ alkyl glycols or diglycols with the parent alkylene oxides of the units A and/or B.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the general formula (I) is preparable by DMC-catalyzed alkoxylation.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A process for producing a composite material according to claim 1 by mixing the organic and/or inorganic water-insoluble particles or pigments and the compounds of the general formula (I) with heating where appropriate.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A paint, ink formulation, coating or overcoating composition or formulation for mineral processing, papermaking or paper finishing, comprising a composite material according to claim 1 and, ~~if appropriate, surfactants at least~~ one surfactant which in solution in water at 5 g/l ~~exhibit~~ exhibits an interfacial tension of less than 45 mN/m at 20°C, ~~polymers if appropriate and, if appropriate, customary auxiliaries.~~

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein R is C₁₋₆ alkyl or benzyl.

Claim 11 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein y is 1 or 2.

Claim 12 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein x is 2-12.

Claim 13 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein x is 2-10.

Claim 14 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein x is 3-8.

Claim 15 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein R is methyl, ethyl, or benzyl.

Claim 16 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein R is H or methyl.

Claim 17 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein R is methyl.

Claim 18 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the general formula (I) is an alkyl glycol alkoxylate or alkyl diglycol alkoxylate obtainable by alkoxylating C₄₋₈ alkyl glycols or C₄₋₈ alkyl diglycols.

Claim 19 (New): The composite material according to claim 1, wherein the compound of the general formula (I) is an alkyl glycol alkoxylate or alkyl diglycol alkoxylate obtainable by alkoxylating a C₄₋₈ alkyl glycol or a C₄₋₈ alkyl diglycol.